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Sen Morgan
Guidelines

Honorable Robert B. Morgan
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Morgan:

Several months ago we discussed your concern over the Agency's inability to approve access to sensitive compartmented intelligence by a member of your personal staff. On 21 July I approved new Guidelines and Procedures for the issuance of compartmented clearances to the Legislative Branch. I believe your requirements for sensitive compartmented information can be met within the framework of these guidelines.

The Guidelines and Procedures are designed to provide a centralized management control mechanism that will assure strict, uniform application of need-to-know and personnel security criteria. A copy is enclosed. Section D does confirm the general thrust of previous policy by specifying that only key staff members in the offices of the Leadership of the Congress and permanent committee staff designated by committee or subcommittee chairmen are eligible for compartmented clearances. Committee staffers are subject to standardized security procedures and discipline for controlling classified information which are not applicable to personal staff.

Please note that Section D should not be read to exclude from eligibility for compartmented clearances individuals who become associated with committee or subcommittee staffs under the provisions of Section 111(b)(2) of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-94, 91 Stat. 653). Section 111 codifies Section 705 of Senate Resolution 4, 95th Congress. Of course, decisions concerning the use of Sections 111(b)(2) and 111(c) must be made by each Senator in consultation with the appropriate committee or subcommittee chairman. The key distinction between the two statutory provisions as far as Guidelines and Procedures for compartmented clearances are concerned is that under 111(b)(2) an individual is actually appointed to the committee or subcommittee staff "for the purpose of assisting [a particular Senator] solely and directly in his duties as a member..." while Section 111(c)